

Key Vocabulary

Vertebrate – animals which have a backbone/spine

Invertebrate – animals which do not have a backbone/spine

Classification – grouping living things by looking at similarities and differences

Habitat – where a plant or animal lives

Hibernate – where a plant or animal spends the winter in a dormant state.

Environment – the surroundings or conditions in which an animal or plant lives

Deforestation – the action of clearing a wide area of trees

Endangered species – A plant or animal where there are not many left and scientists are concerned that the species may become extinct.

Changes to an **environment** can be natural or caused by humans. Changes to an **environment** can have positive as well as negative effects. Here are some examples of things that can change an **environment**.

Natural

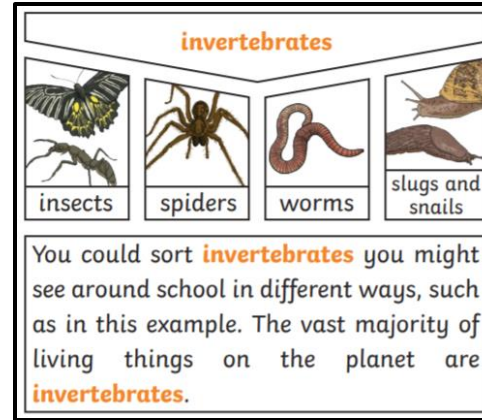
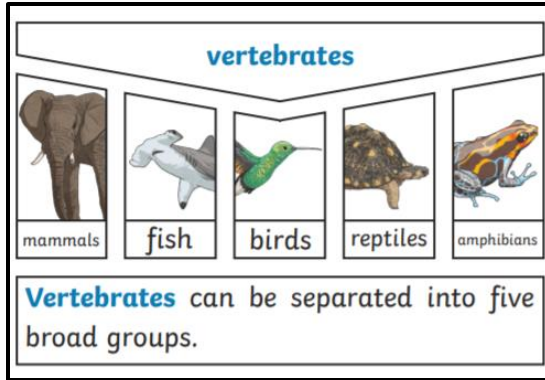
- earthquakes
- storms
- floods
- droughts
- wildfires
- the seasons

Human-Made

- deforestation
- pollution
- urbanisation
- the introduction of new animal or plant species to an **environment**
- creating new nature reserves

Plants and animals rely on the **environment** to give them everything they need. Therefore, when **habitats** change, it can be very dangerous to the plants and animals that live there.

Year 4 Living things and their environments



Characteristics of living things

All living things do these 7 life processes:

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Movement – moving, can be fast and obvious or slow and over time

Respiration – releasing energy from food

Sensitivity – responding to their environment

Growth – getting bigger and older

Reproduction – producing offspring

Excretion – getting rid of waste

Nutrition – taking in food

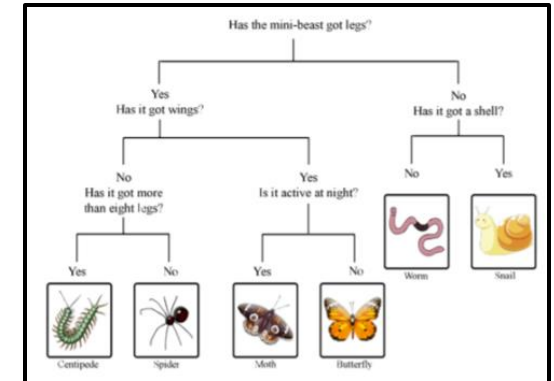
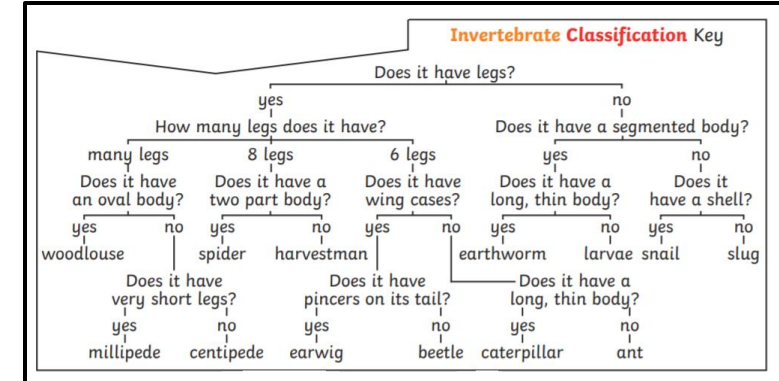
Classifying plants and animals

Classifying is when you group things together that are similar. With so many living things to make records of, and so many yet to discover, it is important that we have a system to organise and make sense of the information we have about them.

We organise living things into groups based on their similarities and differences, so that we can learn more about what makes each species unique. The differences between living things is sometimes called variation.

Classification keys

You can use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things. Here are some examples:



Plants can be sorted into many different groups. For example:

